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Suppliers' Information Note

For The BT Network

BT Wi-Fi
Service Description

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1. Introduction

This Supplier's Information Note (SIN) describes the BT Wi-Fi service and provides technical information for terminal equipment (TE) manufacturers and suppliers.

Note that Wi-Fi® is a registered trademark of the Wi-Fi Alliance®[1].

2. Service Outline

The BT Wi-Fi service provides wireless Internet access for individual nomadic Internet users through a network of local islands of connectivity known as hotspots. Service commenced on August 1st 2002. Typically users have a laptop or hand held device and are authenticated by logging onto the service, usually through a web browser interface. BT Broadband customers have unlimited access at all BT Wi-Fi hotspots and can either log in via the web browser or by using the publically available BT Wi-Fi App for Apple and Android devices. The BT Wi-Fi service is not designed to support authentication for devices which do not have any browser capabilities (e.g. IoT devices).

The location of hotspots is published at http://www.btwifi.co.uk and is also available to users at hotspots through their web browser, whether logged in or not. The specific area covered at each hotspot may be advertised through local signage.

3. Service Availability

The service will be available throughout the UK where network capacity exists, to users within the coverage area of a hotspot. Performance is best within a few tens of metres of the location of the hotspot. This is a localised service for nomadic Internet users.

4. End User Interface Description

The Network Termination Point (NTP) is at the radio interface presented at the hotspot. The radio interface takes the form of a wireless LAN radio interface which conforms to the 802.11[2] set of LAN protocols and connects to a particular frequency dependant on the specific device capabilities.

The BT Wi-Fi service supports the following Standards:-

Standard	Frequency Band			
	2.4GHz	5GHz	6GHz	Public Name
802.11g	Yes	Yes	No	N/A
802.11n	Yes	Yes	No	Wi-Fi 4
802.11ac (wave 1)	Yes	Yes	No	Wi-Fi 5
802.11ac (wave 2)	Yes	Yes	No	Wi-Fi 5
802.11ax	Yes	Yes	Yes	Wi-Fi 6 (Wi-Fi 6E for 6GHz)

The availability of a particular standard in any single venue will vary dependent on the specific infrastructure installed at those premises, but all hotspots will offer wi-fi at 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. The new 6 GHz ("Wi-Fi 6E") capability is being introduced at selected hotspots over time.

5. Technical Specification

End user radio devices connecting to the BT Wi-Fi service on the 2.4GHz frequency band must conform to the requirements of IR2005[3] and those connecting on the 5GHz frequency band must conform to the requirements of IR2030[4]

To enhance security, the default BT Wi-Fi service may restrict traffic by IP port or protocol. Further restrictions may be applied for certain subscription customers once logged into the service. An example would be where the security policy of a particular enterprise customer demands that certain ports or protocols are blocked.

6. Further Information Contact Point

If you have enquiries relating to this document then please contact sinet.helpdesk@bt.com

7. References

[1]	Wi-Fi Alliance	https://www.wi-fi.org	
[2]	IEEE 802.11	part of the IEEE 802 set of local area network (LAN) protocols. IEEE 802.11 specifies the set of media access control (MAC) and physical layer (PHY) protocols for implementing wireless local area network (WLAN) Wi-Fi computer communication in various frequencies including, but not limited to, 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, 6 GHz, and 60 GHz frequency bands.	
[3]	IR2005 Version 4.0	UK Interface Requirement 2005: Wideband Transmissio Systems Operating in the 2.4 GHz ISM Band and Using Spread Spectrum Modulation Techniques	January 2018
[4]	IR2030 Version 1.14	UK Interface Requirement 2030: Licence Exempt Short Range Devices – See IR2030/8 Wireless Access Systems	April 2021

8. Abbreviations

Acronym	Expansions
BT	British Telecommunications plc

Acronym	Expansions
GHz	GigaHertz
IEEE	Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers
IR	Interface Requirement (Ofcom Publication)
LAN	Local Area Network
NTP	Network Termination Point
PC	Personal/Portable Computer
SIN	Suppliers Information Note
TE	Terminal Equipment
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity – a registered trademark of the Wi-Fi Alliance

9. History

Issue 1	12 November 2002	First Publication
Issue 1.1	23 February 2004	Editorial changes. Clause on terminal equipment approvals deleted, information available via SINet Useful Contacts page.
Issue 2.0	4 February 2005	Added reference to 802.11g IEEE Standard.
Issue 2.1	2 February 2006	Updated service description
Issue 2.2	18 July 2007	Limitations deleted in Service Availability clause to take account of increased coverage.
Issue 2.3	June 2013	Change all reference of BT Openzone to BT Wi-Fi
Issue 2.4	July 2015	Change SINet site references from http://www.sinet.bt.com to http://www.btplc.com/sinet/
Issue 2.5	September 2017	Added reference to 802.11ac IEEE Standard
Issue 2.6	December 2019	Added reference to 802.11ax IEEE Standard
Issue 2.7	July 2020	Change SINet site references from http://www.btplc.com/sinet/ to https://www.bt.com/about/sinet
Issue 2.8	January 2021	Introduced reference to 6GHz spectrum which is being released by Ofcom in 2021
Issue 2.9	February 2021	Update to consolidate and simplify document. Introduced standards table and overall definition. Removed individual standard definitions.
Issue 2.10	May 2021	Various editorial amendments

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